



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NATIONAL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH
WASHINGTON, DC 20460

Date: 30 September 2008

Memorandum

OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Subject: Deviation from 40 CFR Part 40.125-1 (b)
No-Cost Extension of Grant RD831861
(b) (6)

From: Maggie Breville, Acting Director
Health Research and Fellowships Division
National Center for Environmental Research (8725F)

To: William Sanders III, Dr.P.H., Director
National Center for Environmental Research (8701F)

Requirements: Under the provisions of 40 CFR Part 40.125-1 (b), Grant Limitations on Duration, no research or demonstration grant shall be approved for a project period in excess of five years. The purpose of this memorandum is to request approval for a deviation from 40 CFR Part 40.125 -1 (b). This deviation will allow EPA grant RD831861 to the University of Southern California to be extended for twenty-four (24) months at no cost. Both the project and budget periods for the grant are currently from 11/01/2003 through 10/31/2008. The deviation being requested would result in new project and budget periods of 11/01/2003 through 10/31/2010. This is intended to be the final extension of this project's duration.

Background: EPA grant RD831861 is entitled "Children's Environmental Health Center" and is based at the University of Southern California. This Center is doing community-based research investigating effects of the environment on children's respiratory health, with a focus on asthma and allergic airway disease. The Center has made substantial progress in understanding the effects of ambient air pollutants and environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) on children's respiratory health, and researchers have identified characteristics that increase the susceptibility of children to these pollutants. The Center has found that exhaust emissions from local traffic and regionally transported secondary pollutants are both implicated in asthma pathogenesis, allergic airway disease and reduced lung function growth. The Center has partnerships with local community organizations. The Center includes three projects: "Urban Air Pollution and Persistent Early Life Asthma," "Pollution-Enhanced Allergic Inflammation and Phase II Enzymes," and "Air Pollution, Exhaled Breath Markers, and Asthma in Susceptible Children." The grantee has had substantial delays partly because during the current grant period, two key investigators have transitioned to other universities and organizations.

Purpose: The request for a no-cost extension is to complete ongoing data analysis and manuscripts for all three projects. The grantee is doing final cohort follow-up and

additional analyses as outlined in the original scope of work, holding follow-up meetings with community partners; and preparing research papers for publication. The grantee is also preparing a video which has been planned to update the community on results. In addition, the grantee is developing an *in vitro* test to predict airway susceptibility to pollutants and an exposure model to predict local air quality that can be used across the state. The work as outlined is expected to require an additional 2 years to complete.

Recommendations:

1. Approval of a deviation from 40 CFR Part 40.125-1(b) that would allow the project and budget periods for grant RD831861 to be extended by twenty-four (24) months.
2. A new project period for grant RD831861 from 11/01/2003 through 10/31/2010.
3. A new budget period for grant RD831861 from 11/01/2003 through 10/31/2010.

Concur: ✓ Yes No

(b) (6)

William H. Sanders III, Dr.P.H.
Director, National Center for
Environmental Research (8701F)

Date: 11/3/08

Approved:

(b) (6)

Director, Office of Resources
Management and Administration

Date: 11/3/08

Approved:

(b) (6)

ORD Senior Resource Official

Date: 11/14/08